

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A photofinishing method comprising the steps of:
 - a) offering a plurality of available image looks to a customer in a manner which permits the customer to select at least one image look for association with at least one image captured by the customer on scan-only photographic material;
 - b) converting the at least one image to an image-bearing electronic signal representative of the at least one image;
 - c) applying the selected look to the image-bearing electronic signal;
 - d) processing the image-bearing electronic signal to provide a processed image having properties of the selected image look; and
 - e) transferring the processed image to at least one of a customer or an intended recipient.
2. A method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of printing the processed image.
3. A method according to claim 1, wherein said step of offering the image looks to a customer comprises representing the image looks on a display medium.
4. A method according to claim 3, wherein the step of representing the image looks on a display medium comprises displaying the image looks to a customer on a color monitor, to permit the customer to select a desired image look from the displayed image looks subsequent to viewing the processed images.
5. A method according to claim 1, wherein the scan-only photographic recording material is a color negative film.
6. A method according to claim 1, wherein the step of offering a plurality of image looks comprises displaying the image looks to a customer in a

color brochure, to permit the customer to select a desired image look from the displayed image looks prior to viewing the processed image.

7. A method according to claim 1, wherein the customer is a photographer and the step of offering the plurality of image looks comprises displaying the image looks to the photographer in a color brochure to permit the photographer to select a desired look subsequent to viewing the processed images.

8. A method according to claim 1, wherein the image looks include one or more looks from a list that includes accurate color reproduction, portrait color, high color, black-and-white, old-fashioned sepia tones, selected levels of color intensity, selected levels of contrast, selected levels of detail, selected levels of sharpness, and selected levels of grain.

9. A method according to claim 1, wherein the converting of the at least one image to an image-bearing electronic signal representative of the at least one image occurs at a different location than the processing of the image-bearing electronic signal to provide a processed image having the properties of the selected image look.

10. A photofinishing method comprising the steps of:

- a) offering a plurality of possible image looks and representing the image looks on a display medium for viewing and selection by a customer;
- b) receiving an exposed color photographic recording material intended for scanning from the customer;
- c) scanning an image contained on said exposed photographic recording material to produce image-bearing electronic signals corresponding to the image contained on the exposed photographic recording material;
- d) processing the image-bearing electronic signals to apply a selected look from said plurality of possible image looks; and
- e) providing a processed image with an appearance characteristic of the selected image look to at least one of the customer or an intended recipient.

11. A method according to claim 10, further comprising the step of printing the processed image.

12. A method according to claim 10, wherein the photographic recording material intended for scanning is a color negative film.

13. A method according to claim 10, wherein the step of representing the image looks comprises displaying the image looks to the customer on a color monitor, to permit the customer to select a desired look subsequent to viewing the processed image.

14. A method according to claim 10, wherein the step of representing the image looks comprises displaying the image looks to the customer in a color brochure, to permit the customer to select a desired look prior to viewing the processed image.

15. A method according to claim 10, wherein the customer is a photographer and the step of representing the image looks comprises displaying the image looks to the photographer in a color brochure, to permit the photographer to select a desired look subsequent to viewing the processed image.

16. A method according to claim 10, wherein the looks include one or more looks from a list of accurate color reproduction, portrait color, high color, black-and-white, old-fashioned sepia tones, selected levels of color intensity, selected levels of contrast, selected levels of detail, selected levels of sharpness, and selected levels of grain.

17. A method according to claim 10, wherein the exposed photographic recording material is processed with a development step to produce an image suitable for scanning.

18. A method according to claim 17, wherein the processing step for the exposed photographic recording material includes dry chemistry thermal photographic development.

19. A method according to claim 17, wherein the processing step for the exposed photographic recording material includes lamination to a donor medium.

20. A method according to claim 17, wherein the processing step to produce an image suitable for scanning occurs at the same location as the scanning of the image to produce image-bearing electronic signals.

21. A photofinishing method comprising the steps of:

a) offering a plurality of available image looks to a customer in a manner which permits the customer to select at least one image look which is to be applied to an image bearing electronic signal representative of a captured image;

b) receiving the image-bearing electronic signal and information representative of the selected image look;

c) processing the image-bearing electronic signal to provide a processed image having properties of the selected image look; and

d) transferring the processed image to at least one of the customer or an intended recipient.

22. A method according to claim 21, wherein said offering step comprises the step of representing the image looks on a display medium for viewing by the customer.

23. An image processing arrangement comprising:

an input section adapted to receive a digital image; and

a processing section including a display for displaying a plurality of available image looks, said processing section being adapted to permit a user to

select at least one look from said available looks for association with the digital image, and to process the digital image to provide for a processed image having properties of the selected look.

24. A computer program product, comprising a computer readable storage medium having a computer program stored thereon, which when loaded into the computer, causes the computer to perform the steps of:

- a) offering a plurality of available image looks to a customer in a manner which permits the customer to select at least one image look which is to be applied to an image bearing electronic signal representative of a captured image;
- b) transferring the image bearing electronic signal and information representative of the selected image look to a photofinishing service provider;
- c) processing the image-bearing electronic signal to provide a processed image having properties of the selected image look; and
- d) transferring the processed image to at least one of the customer or an intended recipient.

25. A photofinishing method based on an interactive photofinishing service ordering session between a photofinishing service provider and a customer, the method comprising:

- a) checking for a stored customer profile for the customer based on at least a customer identification of the customer, said customer profile including information representative of previously selected preferred image looks for the customer;

wherein:

- b) if the customer has a stored customer profile, the method comprises:
 - (i) offering a plurality of possible image looks to the customer in a manner which permits the customer to select a preferred image look which is to be applied to an image bearing electronic signal representative of a captured image,

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at least one of said offered possible image looks being a previously selected preferred image look from said stored customer profile; and

(ii) updating the stored customer profile based on the selected preferred image look; and

c) if the customer does not have a stored customer profile, the method comprises:

(i) offering a plurality of possible image looks to the customer in a manner which permits the customer to select at least one image look which is to be applied to an image bearing electronic signal representative of a captured image; and

(ii) creating a new customer profile based on the selected image look.

26. A computer program product, comprising a computer readable storage medium having a computer program stored thereon, which when loaded into the computer, causes the computer to perform the steps of:

(I) offering photofinishing services based on an interactive photofinishing service ordering session between a photofinishing service provider and a customer which comprises:

a) checking a server for a stored customer profile for the customer based on at least a customer identification of the customer, the customer profile including information representative of previously selected preferred image looks for the customer;

wherein:

b) if the customer has a stored customer profile, the method comprises:

(i) offering a plurality of possible image looks to the customer in a manner which permits the customer to select a preferred image look which is to be applied to an image bearing electronic signal representative of a captured image, at least one of said offered possible image looks being a previously selected preferred image look from said stored customer profile; and

(ii) updating the stored customer profile based on the selected preferred image look; and

(c) if the customer does not have a stored customer profile, the method comprises:

(iii) offering a plurality of possible image looks to the customer in a manner which permits the customer to select at least one image look which is to be applied to an image bearing electronic signal representative of a captured image; and

(iv) creating a new customer profile based on the selected image look.

27. A photofinishing method based on an interactive photofinishing service ordering session between a photofinishing service provider and a customer, wherein the customer accesses a monitor during the ordering session, the method comprising:

a) determining monitor settings of the monitor accessed by the customer;

b) comparing the determined monitor settings to optimum monitor settings that provide preferred calibration results;

c) providing color calibration information to the customer based on said comparing step; and

d) checking for a stored customer profile for the customer based on at least a customer identification of the customer, said customer profile including information representative of preferred monitor settings for the customer.

28. A method according to claim 27, wherein:

(e) if the customer has a stored profile, the method comprises:

(i) retrieving the preferred monitor settings in the stored customer profile;

(ii) offering the preferred monitor settings to the customer for association with the customer's images; and

(iii) updating the stored profile; and

(f) if the customer does not have a stored profile, the method comprises:

(i) offering monitor settings to the customer for association with the customer's image; and

(ii) building a customer profile based on the customer's preferred monitor settings.

29. A computer program product, comprising a computer readable storage medium having a computer program stored thereon, which when loaded into the computer, causes the computer to perform the steps of:

offer photofinishing services based on an interactive photofinishing service ordering session between a photofinishing service provider and a customer, wherein the customer accesses a monitor during the interactive ordering session;

determine monitor settings of the monitor accessed by the customer;

compare the determined monitor settings to optimum monitor settings that provide preferred calibration results;

provide color calibration information to the customer based on said comparing step; and

check for a stored customer profile for the customer based on at least a customer identification of the customer, said customer profile including information representative of preferred monitor settings for the customer.

30. A computer program product according to claim 29, wherein: if the customer has a stored profile, the computer performs the steps of:

retrieving the preferred monitor settings in the stored customer profile;

offering the preferred monitor settings to the customer for association with the customer's images; and

updating the stored profile; and

building a customer profile based on the customer's preferred monitor settings.